

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 11, wherein the frame comprises a chassis that includes a lower opening portion opening downward, and a connecting member for connecting the electrical component sensor electrode to the circuit extends through the lower opening portion.
4. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 11, wherein the frame comprises a main frame and a chassis, and the chassis includes a case portion and a cover portion, the case portion ~~constituting the second portion of the element and~~ including a base wall portion having predetermined width along a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and extending upward from the main frame and an outer opening portion opening at least outside, and the cover portion covers the outer opening portion from the outside of the vehicle.
5. (Previously Presented) A door handle device, according to claim 4, wherein an upper side of the chassis is aslant outside.

6. (Previously Presented) A door handle device, according to claim 4, wherein the chassis includes an upper wall portion integrally extending outside from the upper side of the base wall portion, and an connected portion between the upper wall portion and the cover portion has labyrinthine structure.

7. (Original) A door handle device, according to claim 6, wherein the upper wall portion extends outside beyond the connected portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 3, wherein the chassis includes a case portion and a cover portion, the case portion ~~constituting the second portion of the element and~~ including a base wall portion having predetermined width along a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and extending upward from the frame and an outer opening portion opening at least outside, and the cover portion covers the outer opening portion from the outside of the vehicle.

9. (Previously Presented) A door handle device, according to claim 8, wherein the chassis includes an upper wall portion integrally extending outside from the upper side of the base wall portion, and a connected portion between the upper wall portion and the cover portion has labyrinthine structure.

10. (Previously Presented) A door handle device, according to claim 5, wherein the chassis includes an upper wall portion integrally extending outside from

the upper side of the base wall portion, and a connected portion between the upper wall portion and the cover portion has labyrinthine structure.

11. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, comprising:

a frame fixed to the inside of an outer panel of a vehicle door; ~~the frame including an element, a first portion of the element constituting a main frame affixed to the door, and a second, integral portion of the element constituting part of a chassis forming an inner space;~~

a grip provided on the frame from the outside of a vehicle and including an electrical component a sensor electrode for detecting a user approaching the vehicle door based on variation of capacitance; and

a circuit electrically connected to the electrical component sensor electrode and mounted in the inner space frame, wherein the circuit is positioned between the element frame and the outer panel of the door.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 42 18, wherein the frame comprises a chassis that includes a lower opening portion opening downward, and a the connecting member ~~for connecting the electrical component to the circuit~~ extends through the lower opening portion.

14. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 42 18, wherein the frame comprises a main frame and a chassis, and the chassis includes a case portion and a cover portion, the case portion ~~constituting the second portion~~

~~of the element and~~ including a base wall portion having predetermined width along a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and extending upward from the main frame and an outer opening portion opening at least outside, and the cover portion covers the outer opening portion from the outside of the vehicle.

15. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 4 14, wherein an upper side of the chassis is aslant outside.

16. (Previously Presented) A door handle device, according to claim 14, wherein the chassis includes an upper wall portion integrally extending outside from the upper side of the base wall portion, and an connected portion between the upper wall portion and the cover portion has labyrinthine structure.

17. (Currently Amended) A door handle device, according to claim 6 16, wherein the upper wall portion extends outside beyond the connected portion.

18. (New) A door handle device, comprising:
a frame fixed to the inside of an outer panel of a vehicle door;
a grip mounted on the frame and located at an outside of the vehicle door, the grip including a sensor electrode which detects a user approaching the vehicle door;
a signaling circuit electrically connected to the sensor electrode and integrally provided with the frame, the signaling circuit comprising a sensor detection portion which transmits a signal in response to the sensor electrode detecting a user approaching the vehicle door; and
a connecting member connecting the sensor electrode to the signaling circuit.

19. (New) A door handle device according to claim 18, wherein the sensor electrode detects a user approaching the vehicle door based on a variation of capacitance, the sensor detection portion transmitting the signal to a controller which is connected to a door lock device.

20. (New) A door handle device, comprising:
a frame fixed to the inside of an outer panel of a vehicle door;
a grip mounted on the frame and located at an outside of the vehicle door, the grip including a sensor electrode detecting a user approaching the vehicle door;
a signaling circuit electrically connected to the sensor electrode and integrally provided with the frame, the signaling circuit comprising a transmitting portion which transmits a request signal requesting receipt of an identification signal from a device carried by the user before operation of the grip by the user; and
a connecting member connecting the sensor electrode to the signaling circuit.

21. (New) A door handle device according to claim 20, wherein the sensor electrode detects a user approaching the vehicle door based on a variation of capacitance, the transmitting portion being connected to a controller which is connected to a door lock device.

22. (New) A door handle device according to claim 20, wherein the request signal transmitted by the transmitting portion is transmitted by way of an antenna provided in the grip.

23. (New) A door handle device according to claim 11, wherein the circuit that is electrically connected to the sensor electrode is also connected to a controller which is connected to a door lock device.